

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 15 (cancelled)

Claims 16 -~~44~~ (cancelled)

Claim 42 (new):        A method for treating or minimizing, post-ischemic brain cell deterioration in humans comprising the step of administering by inhalation to a human a therapeutically - effective amount of a medicinal composition comprising nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor, and xenon or a xenon donor, at least part of said nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor and xenon or xenon donor being in gaseous form, thereby treating or minimizing post-ischemic brain cell deterioration in said human.

Claim 43 (new):        The method according to Claim 42, wherein said method further comprises the step of adding xenon or a xenon donor to a gaseous composition containing gaseous nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor.

Claim 44 (new):        The method according to Claim 42, wherein said method further comprises adding at least one component selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, and argon to said medicinal composition.

Claim 45 (new):        The method according to Claim 42, wherein said method comprises adding oxygen and nitrogen to said medicinal composition.

Claim 46 (new):        The method according to Claim 43, wherein said nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor, and xenon or xenon donor are substantially in gaseous form.

Claim 47 (new):        The method according to Claim 42, wherein said post-ischemic brain cell deterioration is subsequent to a stroke in said human.

Claim 48 (new):        The method according to Claim 42, wherein said post-ischemic brain cell deterioration results in a stroke to said human.

**Claim 49 (new):** The method according to Claim 42, wherein said medicinal composition comprises up to about 80% by volume of nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor and said medicinal composition comprises less than about 60% by volume of xenon or xenon donor.

**Claim 50 (new):** The method according to Claim 42, wherein said medicinal composition comprises up to about 75% by volume of nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor.

**Claim 51 (new):** The method according to Claim 42, wherein said medicinal composition comprises less than about 50% by volume of xenon or xenon donor.

**Claim 52 (new):** The method according to Claim 42, wherein said medicinal composition comprises gaseous xenon and gaseous nitrous oxide.

**Claim 53 (new):** The method according to Claim 42, wherein said medicinal composition comprises from about 19% to about 25% by volume of oxygen.

**Claim 54 (new):** The method according to Claim 42, wherein said medicinal composition containing gaseous xenon and gaseous nitrous oxide is placed in a pressurized gas container.

**Claim 55 (new):** A method for treating or minimizing post-ischemic brain cell deterioration in humans comprising the step of administering by inhalation to a human a therapeutically - effective amount of a medicinal composition comprising a mixture of gaseous nitrous oxide and gaseous xenon, thereby treating or minimizing post-ischemic brain cell deterioration in said human.

**Claim 56 (new):** The method according to Claim 55, wherein the medicinal composition further comprises oxygen.

**Claim 57 (new):** The method according to Claim 55, wherein said medicinal composition comprises up to about 80% by volume of nitrous oxide and less than about 60% by volume of xenon.

**Claim 58 (new):** The method according to Claim 56, wherein said medicinal composition comprises from about 19% to about 25% by volume of oxygen.

**Claim 59 (new):** The method according to Claim 55, wherein said post-ischemic brain cell deterioration is subsequent to a stroke in said human.

**Claim 60 (new):** The method according to Claim 55, wherein said post-ischemic brain cell deterioration results in a stroke in said human.

**Claim 61 (new):** A method for providing a neuro-protective action in the brain of a human comprising the step of administering by inhalation to said human a therapeutically-effective amount of a medicinal composition comprising a mixture of gaseous nitrous oxide and gaseous xenon.

**Claim 62 (new):** The method according to Claim 60, wherein said medicinal composition comprises up to about 80% by volume of nitrous oxide and less than about 60% by volume of xenon

**Claim 63 (new):** An inhalable medicinal composition containing a therapeutically - effective amount of nitrous oxide and xenon for treating or minimizing post-ischemic brain cell deterioration in said human.

**Claim 64 (new):** An inhalable medicinal according to Claim 62, wherein said medicinal composition comprises up to about 80% by volume of nitrous oxide and less than about 60% by volume of xenon.

**Claim 65 (new):** An inhalable medicinal composition containing a therapeutically - effective amount of nitrous oxide and xenon for providing a neuro-protective action in the brain of a human.

**Claim 66 (new):** An inhalable medicinal composition according to Claim 64, wherein said medicinal composition comprises up to about 80% by volume of nitrous oxide and less than about 60% by volume of xenon.